

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01

CIEP-01 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

AEC-05 /077 W

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R 241817Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3525

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR FR CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S VISIT TO
FRANCE

REF: (A) PARIS 25011 (B) PARIS 24711 (C) PARIS 25105

SUMMARY: CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU MADE OFFICIAL
VISIT TO FRANCE OCTOBER 21-23. GOF WAS VERY PLEASED
WITH VISIT BECAUSE "QUEBEC LIBRE" HATCHET WAS FINALLY
BURIED AND FRANCO-CANADIAN RELATIONS ARE WARM AND
FRIENDLY AGAIN. ONLY SHADOW OVER VISIT WAS GOF REFUSAL
TO SUPPORT CANADIAN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE CONTRACTUAL LINK
BETWEEN CANADA AND EC. IN ADDITION TO NORMALIZATION
OF RELATIONS, OVERALL EMPHASIS OF VISIT WAS ON INCREASED
ECONOMIC COOPERATION, BUT NO MAJOR NEW AGREEMENTS WERE
REACHED, HOWEVER. END SUMMARY.

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1. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, PONSOLLE, PROVIDED FOLLOWING RUNDOWN OF PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE OCTOBER 21-23.

2. NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS: MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT OF VISIT WAS TO CONSECRATE NORMALIZATION OF FRANCO-CANADIAN RELATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN IN PROCESS FOR SOME TIME. PONSOLLE DESCRIBED IT AS A MUTUAL REDISCOVERY AFTER TOO LONG A PERIOD OF GLACIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OTTAWA AND PARIS. HE SAID THAT TRUDEAU AGREED FRANCE SHOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE A PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC IN RETURN FOR WHICH THE FRENCH AGREED TO LIMIT THAT RELATIONSHIP STRICTLY TO CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. THE FRENCH PROMISED TO AVOID ANY INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL POLITICAL MATTERS BETWEEN OTTAWA AND QUEBEC, AND WILL SO INFORM QUEBEC PRIME MINISTER BOURASSA WHEN HE VISITS PARIS DECEMBER 4-5.

3. ECONOMIC COOPERATION: APART FROM THE NORMALIZATION OF THE OTTAWA-PARIS RELATIONSHIP, THE EMPHASIS OF THE VISIT WAS ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS WITH NO SURPRISES EMERGING. PONSOLLE SAID AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS REACHED TO PROCEED WITH A URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY CONNECTED TO THE JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC SCHEME UNDER PRIVATE AUSPICES PROVIDED CURRENT FEASIBILITY STUDIES TURN OUT FAVORABLE. THE FRENCH PARTNER IN THE SCHEME WILL BE AN ELEMENT OF THE FRENCH ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH AN ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN THE SALE OF FRENCH HELICOPTERS TO CANADA, FRENCH PRIVATE INTERESTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MAINTENANCE FACILITY IN CANADA. THE CANADIANS ARE STILL STUDYING THE FEASIBILITY OF THEIR PURCHASING THE FRENCH AIRBUS, ACCORDING TO PONSOLLE. NEGOTIATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN EARLY 1975 FOR AN AIR FRANCE ROUTING FROM PARIS TO TORONTO, AND FOR AN AIR CANADA ROUTING TO THE FRENCH ANTILLES.

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5. OTHER ECONOMIC ITEMS INCLUDE THE RAISING OF THE FRANCO-CANADIAN MIXED COMMISSION TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL, AND AN AGREEMENT TO STUDY POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN RAILWAY TECHNOLOGY. THE MIXED COMMISSION'S ASSIGNMENT IS TO DOUBLE TRADE BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA.

6. PONSOLLE SAID THAT THE ONLY NEGATIVE ELEMENT OF THE VISIT WAS GOF REFUSAL TO SUPPORT CANADA'S REQUEST FOR A "CONTRACTUAL LINK" WITH THE EC DESPITE STRONG PRESSURE FROM TRUDEAU. PONSOLLE SAID NEGATIVE DECISION WAS TAKEN BY PRESIDENT GISCARD WHO NEVER WAVERED DURING THE VISIT. PONSOLLE SAID DECISION BASED ON VAGUENESS OF CANADIAN PROPOSAL AND GOF DESIRE AVOID PROBLEMS WITH GATT (REFTEL C).

7. IN PUBLIC APPEARANCES, TRUDEAU'S CONSTANT THEME WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CANADA'S NEED TO DIVERSIFY ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS IN ORDER TO REDUCE OVERWHELMING DEPENDENCE ON THE UNITED STATES. TRUDEAU'S "SLEEPING WITH AN ELEPHANT" EPIGRAM WAS QUOTED WIDELY IN THE FRENCH PRESS. PONSOLLE MADE A POINT OF SAYING THAT TRUDEAU NEVER SHOWED ANY HOSTILITY TOWARD THE U.S. WHEN MAKING THESE REMARKS, AND TRUDEAU INVARIABLY COMMENTED THAT THE U.S. WAS VERY UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THIS CANADIAN IMPERATIVE.
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